

NOTICE TO OWEN COUNTY TAXPAYERS OF TAX RATES FOR 1990 PAYABLE IN 1991 SUBMITTED BY AUDITOR																
Notice is hereby given the taxpayers of Owen County that the Owen County Auditor has received the budgets and levies submitted by the tax levying officials of the several parts of Owen County. The following rates of taxation on each one hundred dollars (\$100.00) of assessed valuation of taxable property now stand charged for 1990 payable in 1991 subject to appeal.																
	LAWYER, HARRISON JACKSON JEFFERSON JENNINGS LAFAYETTE MAHON MONTGOMERY MORGAN TAYLOR WASHINGTON														Lawyer, Auditor Owen County	
	WAYNE COUNTY OFFICE EXPENSE															
STATE RATE:																
State Fair	.0035	.0035	.0035	.0035	.0035	.0035	.0035	.0035	.0035	.0035	.0035	.0035	.0035	.0035	.0035	.0035
State Forest	.0065	.0065	.0065	.0065	.0065	.0065	.0065	.0065	.0065	.0065	.0065	.0065	.0065	.0065	.0065	.0065
TOTAL STATE RATE	.01	.01	.01	.01	.01	.01	.01	.01	.01	.01	.01	.01	.01	.01	.01	.01
COUNTY RATE:																
General	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Welfare	.2740	.2740	.2740	.2740	.2740	.2740	.2740	.2740	.2740	.2740	.2740	.2740	.2740	.2740	.2740	.2740
Welfare Administration	.0743	.0743	.0743	.0743	.0743	.0743	.0743	.0743	.0743	.0743	.0743	.0743	.0743	.0743	.0743	.0743
Welfare	.0534	.0534	.0534	.0534	.0534	.0534	.0534	.0534	.0534	.0534	.0534	.0534	.0534	.0534	.0534	.0534
Welf. Co. Maint. Ass't. to Wards	.002346	.002346	.002346	.002346	.002346	.002346	.002346	.002346	.002346	.002346	.002346	.002346	.002346	.002346	.002346	.002346
Health	.04	.04	.04	.04	.04	.04	.04	.04	.04	.04	.04	.04	.04	.04	.04	.04
Cumulative Bridge	.10	.10	.10	.10	.10	.10	.10	.10	.10	.10	.10	.10	.10	.10	.10	.10
Reassessment	.10	.10	.10	.10	.10	.10	.10	.10	.10	.10	.10	.10	.10	.10	.10	.10
Retardation	.03	.03	.03	.03	.03	.03	.03	.03	.03	.03	.03	.03	.03	.03	.03	.03
Cumulative Courthouse	.0719	.0719	.0719	.0719	.0719	.0719	.0719	.0719	.0719	.0719	.0719	.0719	.0719	.0719	.0719	.0719
Mental Health	.04	.04	.04	.04	.04	.04	.04	.04	.04	.04	.04	.04	.04	.04	.04	.04
Kidneys & Registration	.067	.067	.067	.067	.067	.067	.067	.067	.067	.067	.067	.067	.067	.067	.067	.067
EMS	.396	.396	.396	.396	.396	.396	.396	.396	.396	.396	.396	.396	.396	.396	.396	.396
Owen Co. Soc. Clin. & EMS Bldg	.3786	.3786	.3786	.3786	.3786	.3786	.3786	.3786	.3786	.3786	.3786	.3786	.3786	.3786	.3786	.3786
TOTAL COUNTY RATE	3.186	3.186	3.186	3.186	3.186	3.186	3.186	3.186	3.186	3.186	3.186	3.186	3.186	3.186	3.186	3.186
TOWNSHIP RATE:																
General	.03	.05	.10	.03	.005	.06	.06	.06	.06	.06	.07	.02	.02	.01	.01	.02
Poor Relief	.01	.01	.01	.01	.02	.02	.01	.025	.01	.04	.01	.03	.02	.02	.01	.02
Fire Fighting	.12	.26	.03	.02	.06	.105	.06	.01	.01	.02	.01	.16	.14	.14	.04	.04
Fire Dept.	2.14															
TOTAL TOWNSHIP RATE:	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.25	1.55	1.85	1.85	1.85	1.85	1.85	1.85	1.85	1.85	1.85	1.85	1.85
SCHOOL RATE:																
General	2.25	2.25	2.25	1.923	2.25	1.923	2.25	2.25								

African-Americans (WV)

A Research Report - African-Americans In Owen County From 1818 Through 1880

Spencer Evening World 9/25/90

(Editor's Note - Owen county resident Roger Peterson has been working on a detailed black history of Owen county for quite some time, dedicating his research to records in both the Owen County Courthouse and the Spencer Owen Public Library.

Peterson said he started the project after he met a man in Bloomington quite some time ago who expressed a deep interest in the black history of our county

Born and raised in Chicago, Peterson moved to Owen county five years ago to be near Indiana University, making his home at Locust Lake north of Carp.)

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By Roger Peterson

The first people of African descent found in Owen County were in the household of York Jones which contained 11 people. York came sometime before 1820. He lived in Franklin township but moved to Greene County, Indiana before 1830.

During the 1820's at least six families came as did some single men, settling in Washington and La Fayette townships

Of the pioneers whose backgrounds I have discovered, none were or ever had been slaves. Some of their fathers had been soldiers of the American Revolution. They came directly to this part of Indiana from N.C., probably joining the migration of their

white neighbors using two and four wheel carts passing through the Cumberland Gap. Most families purchased government land in Owen County.

During the early 1830's, the original group was joined by new immigrants, eventually a total of more than 22 households containing a population of 150 - 200 people. These also purchased government as well as privately held lands but now expanded into Marion, Jefferson and Franklin townships. At one time most of Marion township sections 27 and 28 were owned by blacks.

Among those who came in the 1820's was the Harris family, Clayborn, Hardin and Williamson. Clayborn and Williamson homesteaded in Marion township, Hardin in La Fayette. Williamson sold out in 1846 and moved to Vigo Co. Clayborn, beginning in 1836 at various times purchased 120 acres and farmed until his death in 1855. His daughter Biddy was the local physician. Clayborn Jr. eventually sold the lands and moved to Cass County, Michigan. Hardin was the most active in real estate, at one time or another between 1839 and 1850 buying and selling some 320 acres, mostly in La Fayette township plus lots in Vandalia. He sold out in the 1850s.

Benjamin Bass, who is mentioned in the history, although not too fondly, came during the 1820's from Guilford Co. N.C. He began

purchasing government land in Marion township in 1836, where he acquired 180 acres. He also sold out in the mid 1850's, moved to Vigo Co. for a few years, then to St. Joseph, County where he died in 1891.

During the 30's the Gradys and Lossons (Lawson) came to Franklin township. Granville and William Grady became large landholders. Granville, buying and selling at various times some 400 acres, William almost as much. Both farmed there until after the Civil War when they sold out. Interestingly, one of the Homesteader's was a woman, Elizabeth Eakins (Akins). She soon after married Reubin Lawson and in 1838 they sold the property.

At this same time, the Griffins, Powells and Russells were added to the Marion township community. Farrow Powell acquired several hundred acres but sold his last 240 acres to William Silvus in 1852 and moved to St. Joseph Co. Indiana, were Benjamin Bass later joined him.

During the late 1840's and early 1850's, the black population reached its pioneer peak. With a few newcomers and the addition of the Franklin township Griffins, the Marion township population remained stable. The original families continued purchasing land.

The La Fayette township people were now gone although family members were in the Marion and Washington township communities, thus temporarily leaving most blacks in just these two townships. However, the Gradys were still buying land in Franklin and La Fayette townships.

In the 1850's the Marion township community went into decline even with the addition of a few families when the Bass, Russell, Powell and Harris families left for Vigo and St. Joseph counties. William Grady, of Franklin township still continued adding to his farms.

La Fayette township had a small gain at this time when Amy Mitchell moved in from Greene Co. and Granville Grady moved up from Franklin township. While only two families, they purchased quite a bit of land. Amy farmed at least 120 acres. The records do not show if Amy's husband Henderson moved to Owen Co. In any event, she paid him \$1,000 in 1857 for a Quit Claim deed to these 120 acres. Not an inconsiderable sum at the time.

During and within a few years after the Civil War, with the exception of Amy Mitchell, all the pioneer families outside of Washington township had left.

The first settlers in Washington township were the Waldens' and Roberts who arrived before 1825.

Parden Roberts' appears to

have been a speculator in town lots, buying seven in Spencer and two in Southport in 1825-1827. He sold them in 1830 and '31 and in 1836 purchased 40 acres in La Fayette township. He had an annualized gain of 20% on these lots.

Richard Walden⁶ also purchased Spencer lots in the earliest days and was a shareholder in the Spencer Steam Mill Company. His farm was west of Spencer where the Wilson or Negro cemetery is today. He purchased the land in 1836 and established the cemetery in the S.E. corner of the land. In 1842, he donated this 1/4 acre to "all my colored friends and relations". The cemetery had been in use before that since his mother was already buried there. The next year he died and was buried there.

Many of Richard's relatives came to Spencer in the 1830's, most becoming landowners. They eventually acquired 400 or more acres. The land was in parcels west of the high school, extending north and south for several miles. Most of these people came from North Carolina but John Ridgley⁷ was from Maryland.

More families came in the 1840's including the Boons⁸, who are still remembered. They first settled in Clay township where they purchased land but soon sold and moved to Spencer. Zilpha Boon owned a number of Spencer properties and lived until 1900, when she died, age 106.

All of the pioneer families left during the 1850's except for Aaron Roberts and the Washington township population fell to just four families.

The community started to re-

cover in the 1860's with the arrival of new families and the return of members of pioneer families that had moved to Vigo Co. Few were landowners but some had trades; barber⁹, plasterer, stone mason. Among the new residents was Henry Scott¹⁰ whose son Martin¹⁰ was in the 19th Indiana Regiment, and a prisoner at Andersonville during the Civil War.

The recovery continued during the 1870's, Spencer and Washington township having a population exceeding 25 households and 100 people by 1880. There were now enough people for a church and school building. While the records do not reveal if there were schools in the 1830's and 40's, they do show there had been some schooling since 1850. Land for a church was purchased in 1874, Lot 214, now known as 458 S. Montgomery. A church was built as well as a school next door on the N.E. corner of Cooper and Montgomery. The first recorded teacher was John Christy.

This population was diverse, but can be divided into three categories. Members of the older families, recent arrivals from North Carolina and veterans of the 28th Regiment United States Colored Troops.

The 28th was the Indiana Regiment, organized in Indianapolis April, 1864. It participated in a number of actions, the most notable being the battle of the crater in front of Petersburg, Virginia, where a 50% casualty rate was experienced. Five or six members of this Regiment, all from Orange County, Indiana came to Spencer, including Pleasant Evans¹¹ some of whose descendants lived in Spencer until recently. Evans as

well as other Spencer veterans had been wounded at Petersburg.

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1. Charles Blanchard, ed. *History of Clay and Owen Counties, Indiana* (Chicago: F.A. Battey 1884) p. 741

2. *ibid* pp. 680 & 741

3. *ibid* p. 689

4. *ibid* p. 579

5. *ibid* pp. 579, 587

6. *ibid* pp. 580, 581, 818

7. *ibid* p. 868

Dixie Kline, *Fact and Folklore of Owen County Indiana*. Vol. II, (Bloomington, IN: Western Sun Printing. 1982) p. 15

8. Blanchard, p. 868

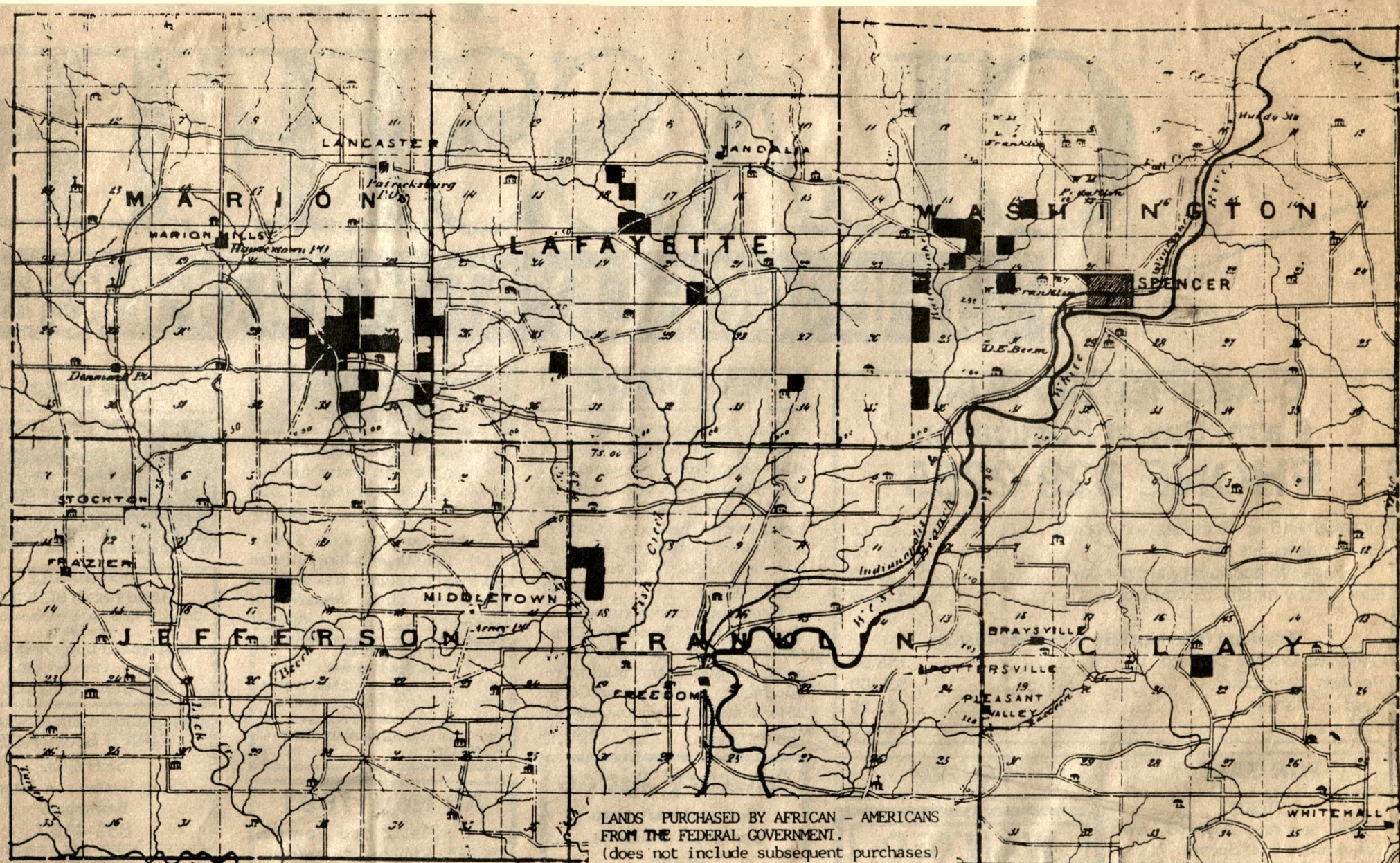
9. *ibid* p. 689

10. *ibid* pp. 642, 680

Carl Anderson, *As I Remember It*, (Spencer, IN: Farm Bureau Printing, 1943) p. 50

11. *ibid* pp. 38, 50

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LANDS PURCHASED BY AFRICAN - AMERICANS
FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.
(does not include subsequent purchases)

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